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August 3, 2018

# The Weekly Focus

### EPA Shift To Substance Of Rule Rollbacks Adds To 'Pressure' On Wheeler

EPA is shifting its focus from the multiple delays of Obama-era rules it has already issued to crafting substantive regulations rolling back those standards, which supporters and critics of the agency alike say will add to the

"pressure" acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler faces in quickly crafting rollbacks that can withstand judicial review.

#### Latest News

# Vehicle GHG Rule Rollback Triggers Fight Over Agencies' Safety, Cost Data

The Trump administration's proposal to freeze vehicle greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards after model year 2020 (MY2020) is triggering a fight over the safety and cost assumptions EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) use to justify the plan, which could be central to any legal fight over a final version of the plan.

# East Coast States Warn EPA's CSAPR 'Closeout' Is Unlawful, Inadequate

East Coast states are warning EPA against finalizing its proposed finding that its Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) emissions trading program fully satisfies Clean Air Act requirements to curb interstate ozone pollution, telling the agency the proposal is based on faulty and unlawful assumptions about the problems of ozone transport.

## EPA Faces Push-Back On Bid To Sideline CWA Rule Merits In Litigation

Environmentalists and states are renewing their attacks on EPA's refusal to consider the merits of the 2015 Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule in suits that target both the rule itself and the delay on its enforcement, urging courts to reject the administration's claims that the legality of the Obama-era standard is irrelevant until its final repeal.

## 4th Circuit Upholds Virginia CWA 401 Certification For Interstate Gas Pipeline

In a significant loss for environmentalists, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit has upheld Virginia's Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 certification for an interstate natural gas pipeline, finding the environmentalists' charges that the state's actions were arbitrary and capricious to be unfounded.

## EPA Proposes Freeze On Vehicle GHG Limits, Revoking California's Waiver

EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have issued their long-awaited rule to "correct" Obama-era vehicle greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards by freezing the program at model year 2020 (MY20) standards, while proposing to revoke California's power to set stricter vehicle GHG standards.

## Daily Feed

#### Environmentalists fight EPA bid to undo ozone 'backsliding' ruling

Environmentalists are pushing back against EPA's efforts to weaken several aspects of a court ruling that scrapped much of the agency's rule for implementation of its 2008 federal ozone standard.

### DOJ plans to challenge kids' climate suit at every opportunity

The Trump administration plans to fight the novel climate suit in order to avoid having federal officials deposed on climate science in a potentially drawn-out trial.

### Quoted: EPA vehicle GHG rule proposal prompts mixed reaction

EPA's and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's proposal to freeze Obama-era fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards is prompting a wide mix of reactions.

## Wheeler says formaldehyde IRIS study undergoing 'accuracy' review

The agency's acting administrator offered senators his first public assurance that EPA will ultimately release the long-pending risk assessment of formaldehyde.

### Major biofuels group sees progress on E15 waiver, fuel economy

Biofuels advocates believe EPA will continue crafting a rule to lift E15 fuel restrictions, despite statements from agency chief Andrew Wheeler casting doubt on these efforts.

## Ewire: Trump's science adviser pick earns bipartisan praise

In today's Ewire: The selection of meteorologist Kevlin Droegemeier would end an 18-month vacancy at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

#### Carper compares Kavanaugh to Pruitt in bid to block nomination

Judge Brett Kavanaugh "has demonstrated that he will put the interests of polluters ahead of the right of the public to breathe clean [air] and drink clean water," claims Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE).

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